



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1728

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Red Ribbon Certified Schools (RRCS) process will service approximately 15,000 students in North, Central and South Florida. It is an environmental change process that aligns Teachers, Parents, Students, and Administrators into a team to create an effective and healthy school climate through parental engagement and community building. RRCS is based on the research from Project Northland (Feb 2002), a well-documented evidence-based study. The certification process recognizes schools that fully embrace prevention criteria towards evidence-based, school-based prevention efforts against youth substance misuse. The goals are to provide year-round youth substance misuse prevention education, parent training and community-based prevention activities aimed at improving school climate, enhancing school-based protective factors, increasing community support, and boosting parental involvement-a key factor in academic achievement and healthy development.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**  No

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	885,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>885,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	885,000	77%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	270,000	23%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>1,155,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**  No
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**
- b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**
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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Informed Families received \$175.4K for PPP funds in 2020 (\$79.3K) and 2021 (\$96.1K) to retain employees and continue operations for community based substance abuse prevention programs servicing schools in both Miami-Dade and Orange counties.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning   
  Design   
  Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	20% of time for management and oversight for Informed Families (IF) Tech Manager and Executive Director: Executive Dir. oversees IF for program execution, fidelity and overall community change as it relates to the vision and organizational mission to keep kids safe, healthy and drug free. Tech Manager oversees integration of RRCS in the IF Information technology systems for education and data management.	40,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Rent, utilities, accounting and operations.	70,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Program strategy and development consulting.	21,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Program Manager (\$69,000) - Responsible for program delivery, fidelity and goals. Marketing Manager (\$70,000) - Responsible for developing and executing campaigns that create awareness, promote results, and engage schools/communities in the RRCS change process.	139,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Milestone based payments going to schools towards completing the evidence-based certification process (\$140,000); Program expenses estimate for schools - RRCS year-round education and awareness materials (\$80,000); award recognition/events (\$40,000); RRCS manual development and distribution (\$10,000); operations and reporting systems (\$125,000).	395,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	RRCS will provide the following support to schools through contracted services: Success Mentors to liaise with school admin and the RRCS team towards completing certification requirements, coordinating educational events and distributing program materials (\$160,000); Ongoing research of RRCS results and school improvements through Thriving Minds (\$40,000); RRCS program process evaluation (\$20,000) by University of Central Florida.	220,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>885,000</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

##### a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

RRCS will service approximately 15,000 students in North, Central and South Florida. The goals are to provide year-round youth substance misuse prevention education, parent training and community-based prevention activities aimed at improving school climate, enhancing school-based protective factors, increasing community support, and boosting parental involvement. RRCS is based on the research from Project Northland (Feb 2002), a well-documented and evidence-based study. In 2008, DCF nominated RRCS as a Service to Science project with SAMSHA and RRCS received an evidence-based certification from SAMHSA in 2013.

##### b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The RRCS process will provide 4 year-round prevention campaigns to engage parents, teachers, students, school administrators and communities in creating healthy behavioral change measured by improving the School Climate Survey results. The four programs include: Family Day (Sept), Red Ribbon (Oct), Lock Your Meds (Jan), Safe Homes Smart Parties (May). These educational campaigns promote engagement and youth substance misuse prevention.

##### c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

RRCS will provide hands-on direct services in support of parents, teachers, administrators, and students to form a team that creates a strong school community. The certification services will supply resources impacting approximately 15,000 students across Florida in 3 areas: 1) Mentors to support schools through the certification process, 2) Events and materials highlighting the dangers of substance misuse, and 3) Science-based educational workshops for parents and students towards improving their school climate and learning environment.

##### d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

RRCS will impact approximately 15,000 students statewide across North, Central, and South Florida. The initiative targets parents, teachers, administrators, students, and employees within a school. The objective is to build a strong and effective school community focused on improving school climate and protective factors. Miami-Dade County and Orange County Coalition Community Action Plans show a need for consistently delivered and integrated community education strategies regarding alcohol and other drugs. RRCS is supported by the Governor's Drug Policy Council Report of 2022 to deliver needed integrated community education strategies, while creating stronger community engagement in youth substance misuse prevention.

##### e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The RRCS process is focused on improving school engagement, safety and the environment within schools by 10% as measured by the Dept. of Education School Climate Survey (EDSCLS). School teams will complete the RRCS application form, which will be evaluated by the University of Central FL Department of Research and Development. Schools that score 80 points or higher will become a Red Ribbon Certified School. A primary goal of RRCS is to reduce substance misuse in youth. Published research about the RRCS process in the Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice showed a 50% decrease in positive attitudes and frequency for alcohol and marijuana use vs a control group of non-certified schools.

##### f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?



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Previously negotiated as 1%

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name   
b. Organization   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization   
b. Municipality and County

#### c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name   
e. E-mail Address   
f. Phone Number

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name   
b. Firm Name   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number